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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2005

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**BUTTE COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
UNLAWFUL FIREARM POSSESSION**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that DAVID LEONARD SURAK, 45, formerly of Chico, California, pled guilty to two charges of the crime of felon in possession of a firearm. Each charge is based on separate firearm possession arrests in 2004. SURAK's guilty plea was entered this morning in Sacramento before United States District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Butte County Sheriff's Office, the office of the FBI located in Chico, California, and the California Highway Patrol.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, SURAK previously was convicted by the state of California of felony robbery and felony escape by force. Having suffered these prior felony convictions, SURAK today admitted that on August 25, 2004 he possessed a loaded rifle (Ruger Carbine) and he admitted that later, on September 30, 2004, he was again in possession of a loaded rifle (Magtech). SURAK's possession of a firearm on September 30, 2004 occurred while SURAK was on bail from state court charges stemming from his August 25, 2004 arrest. On September 30, 2004, in addition to the loaded firearm, SURAK possessed stolen property which had been taken in a burglary. SURAK possessed both loaded firearms in vehicles while driving in the County of Butte, California.

SURAK's sentencing date is scheduled for July 12, 2005. He faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a \$500,000 fine, a \$100 statutory assessment per count, and a 3-year term of supervised release.

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